



**ANNUAL REPORT
QUEANBEYAN BUSINESS COUNCIL INCORPORATED**

**PRESENTED TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
TUESDAY, 21st FEBRUARY 2006**

Our first year of operation has been exhaustive yet fruitful for those involved with QBC. Many of our Executive Councillors have contributed extensive time and effort in order for QBC to reach the level that it has today. I will detail some of these more fully later in the report.

At the outset, I would like to record QBC's grateful thanks to Queanbeyan City Council and Mayor Frank Pangallo MBE for the assistance given in the early set up period. This included use of meeting rooms and other infrastructure. In particular, I would like to thank Council for providing the services of former QCC Manager Economic Development & Tourism, Simon Mitchell-Taverner, without whose help it would have been a difficult task to reach the position we have today.

During the year we have held nine Executive Meetings and three General Meetings (prior to today's event), which have all attracted a high level of attendance. The General Meetings have provided an opportunity for networking and Member feedback and were held at Queanbeyan Golf Club, Queanbeyan Tigers Club and Queanbeyan Racing Club. We thank these clubs for their kind hosting of these events as we do for Queanbeyan Leagues Club this evening.

Other meetings have been held at Country Energy, Riverside Plaza, Queanbeyan City Council, Ian McNamee & Partners and many Executive meetings at Queanbeyan Leagues Club. We thank all these organisations for their support to Queanbeyan Business Council.

Our Executive Committee for 2005 was made up of many dedicated and hard working people. An Executive of 20 people may, on paper, appear unwieldy however this proved far from the case. Such was the input from the majority of members that it was resolved to retain this number for 2006.

As examples, Bill Baker played a significant role in the incorporation of our association and representing QBC on the Cultural Centre Steering Committee. Nick Moufarrige and Colin Maxwell represented QBC on Queanbeyan City Council's CBD LIFT Committee, Jan Browne designed a New Membership Kit and Kim Beaumont arranged a promotional programme with Canberra Times.

Ania Lian has worked tirelessly with the Water Autonomy and Waste Minimisation projects that she inaugurated during the year with help from Craig Harris and Frank Bresnik respectively, whilst Loyd Perin and Hugh Percy have worked hard on road infrastructure. Graham Wise has been a hard working treasurer and has included membership registration as part of his role. Daryl Evans joined Ania Lian as part of the tourism chapter, whilst other executive Members have provided strong representation at Executive meetings. I acknowledge and thank them for their input.

The 2005 Executive was made up as follows:

President: Ian McNamee
Vice Presidents: Bill Baker, Jeremy Wyatt, Hugh Percy
Treasurer: Graham Wise
Secretary: Craig Harris/ Simon Mitchell-Taverner

Members:

Ross Barrett	Colin Maxwell
Kim Beaumont	Matthew Mason-Cox
Frank Bresnik	Maurice McCormack
Jan Browne	Loyd Perin
Daryl Evans	Rod Studholme
Steve Jamieson	Nick Moufarrige
Ania Lian	Trudy Taylor
	Stan Waldren



President Ian McNamee (left) with BEC Chairman Cr Sue Whelan, QBC/QCC facilitator Simon Mitchell-Taverner and QBC Vice-President Bill Baker (Courtesy Queanbeyan Age)

We have had close co-operation from Hon. Gary Nairn MP, Federal Member for Eden Monaro (recently appointed Special Minister of State) and Mr. Steve Whan MP, NSW Member for Monaro. Both are Patrons of our Association, and both have materially assisted our approaches to government.

Our catch phrase "The Voice of Queanbeyan" was used in many areas particularly when representing our community in the Region and at meetings with other industry groups where many satisfactory outcomes were achieved.

Of particular note were our input into two of the main stumbling blocks for future development in Queanbeyan:

- Lack of water for future development, and
- The need for an alternative route for heavy traffic.

It is understood that an announcement will shortly be made by NSW Premier the Hon. Morris Iemma MP regarding the water issue and it is hoped that the promised Commission of Enquiry into future Queanbeyan development will follow.

QBC will be meeting with Queanbeyan City Council in March to discuss the extension of Edwin Land Parkway. Additionally, QBC will raise issues relating to the CBD generally including car parking.

QBC is planning to institute three Industry Chapters during 2006, and will invite all interested members to participate within these chapters. These will be:

*Tourism, * Retail/ Industrial and *Development/ Finance

Perhaps the highlight of 2005 was the recognition shown by Queanbeyan City Council in offering administration of the Queanbeyan Visitor Information Centre to QBC. Not only has this provided us with a “home” at 1 Farrer Place, it has enabled us to provide a significantly increased service to the Queanbeyan community. This will become a base from which we can promote all Queanbeyan business, sporting and cultural sectors.

Occupation of 1 Farrer Place occurred on Monday, 13th February 2006. This coincided with the appointment of our new Executive Officer Dr. Geoffrey Bird.

Geoffrey Bird comes to the Queanbeyan Business Council with a wealth of business/ management experience. He started his career as a school teacher, then university lecturer in Canada and the United States. This was followed by a marketing role in the textile industry in North Carolina, followed by a senior role in the Commonwealth Schools Commission based in Canberra. Following a period as CEO of a public company involved in telecommunications, Geoff was appointed to senior management roles in Westpac and Commonwealth Bank – with particular focus on SE NSW/ ACT. Geoff’s academic qualifications include: B.Ec., M.A. and Ph.D.



*Geoff Bird, Mayor Pangallo & Ian McNamee
(courtesy Queanbeyan Age)*

1 Farrer Place

We are also delighted to advise that Sandra Bryce has been appointed Tourist Officer. This follows a number of years in similar positions at both Canberra and Queanbeyan Visitor Information Centres. Now that Simon Mitchell-Taverner has retired from Queanbeyan City Council, he will be in a position to assist both Geoffrey and Sandra in developing the Centre. Further staffing appointments are expected over the next few weeks.

In close collaboration with ACT Tourism, we are hoping to establish a permanent display at Regatta Point, which will illustrate Queanbeyan’s role in Canberra’s early development.

In conclusion, I can report on a highly productive inaugural year and I wish to thank personally all those who have made this possible. I look forward to an even more exciting second year and to working with an Executive of equal quality.

Ian McNamee
President
21st February 2006